



MEETING MINUTES

DATE January 22, 2024, at 3:00 pm
LOCATION Parks & Recreation Administration Room 101
2154 Landstown Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Chair Bernick called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Recorder Trina Harrell called the role. Chair Bernick asked the visitors to introduce themselves.

Name	Role or Association	Attend
Clay Bernick	Chair	√
Jarrod L. Katzer	Vice Chair	√
Richard "Tuck" Bowie	Committee Member	Ab
Vincent Bowhers	Committee Member	√
Francis Drumm	Committee Member	√
William W. Fleming	Committee Member	√
Maury Hill	Committee Member	√
Phillip Hines	Committee Member	√
Dianna McDowell	Committee Member	√
John Olivieri	Committee Member	√
Kathleen Simmons	Committee Member	√
Cecilia Kocan	Student Member	√
Gavin Wehr	Student Member	√
Liaisons		
Barbara Henley	City Council Member	√
Chris Taylor	City Council Member	
City Staff		
Michael Kirschman	Parks and Recreation	√
Chad Morris	Parks and Recreation	√
Corinna Green	Parks and Recreation	√
Trina Harrell	Parks and Recreation	√
Steve Lambert	Parks and Recreation	√
Brooke Costanza	Parks and Recreation	√
Ashley-Loren Grant	City Attorney's Office	√
Guests		
Walter Camp	ATAC Chair	√
Barbara Duke	VBPRF	√



Name	Role or Association	Attend
Logan Stanton	Environmental Studies program	√

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 4, 2023, MEETING

A motion made by Francis Drumm and seconded by Vincent Bowhens to approve the Minutes from the December 4th meeting was passed unanimously. Chair Bernick welcomed the newest member, Kathleen Paige Simmons.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Virginia Beach Trail Update – Steve Lambert & Walter Camp

Mr. Steve Lambert, Planner III, and Mr. Walter Camp, ATAC Chair, provided status updates for four separate phases of the planned Virginia Beach Trail, and showed the link with other Hampton Roads Regional Trails. In December, the City was awarded a \$14.9M USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All grant for Phase 1 of the Virginia Beach Trail, from Newtown Transit Station to Town Center. The City had filed four prior grant applications for federal funding since 2019. On Tuesday, January 2nd, City Council voted unanimously to accept the grant, commit the required matching local funds, and appropriate the funding into the VB Trail CIP. The total is \$19.5M, including the \$14.9M SS4A grant, \$2.9M in local funds, \$902K from the sale of easements for Dominion's CVOW transmission lines, \$750K in a HUD grant announced in December 2022. Simultaneously, Dominion Energy's plans to replace its transmission infrastructure in the same corridor will need to be coordinated. Design and engineering is scheduled during 2024 and construction must be completed within five years of the signing of the agreement. Phase 1 will include a pedestrian bridge over Independence Blvd. A PER (preliminary engineering report) is currently underway for Phase 2, which is planned as 2.6 miles of shared-use path from Town Center to S. Plaza Trail. Phase 3 is planned as 5.1 miles of shared-use path from S. Plaza Trail to Birdneck Road. Phase 4, already completed, is 1.7 miles of existing shared-use path from Birdneck Road to Rudee Loop Park and includes the Norfolk Avenue Trail and Pacific Avenue Bridge. Mr. Camp provided a brief history of the trail as it has appeared in several City documents and anticipated future uses are not only recreation but also a necessity as an additional transportation option that increases residents' accessibility to essential destinations.

b. Historic Kempsville Kayak Launch Update – Corinna Green

Ms. Green reviewed the location of the kayak launch and advised this is a joint project between Public Works, Public Utilities, and Parks and Recreation. Bids have been received and total construction cost are \$2.5M including \$1.1M of Parks and Recreation funding. Plans include a pump station, kayak launch/floating dock, picnic shelter, and ADA pavers.

c. February Meeting/Potential Tour Date

Chair Bernick advised this meeting room is not available in February but meeting rooms at the Joint Use Library (JUL), Tidewater Community College campus are available. Chair Bernick asked if members were interested touring potential properties discussed for acquisition. Members agreed a tour would be beneficial but agreed not to replace a formal meeting.



4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Urban Forest Management Plan Status & Open Survey – Brooke Costanza
Ms. Costanza reviewed the social, economic, and health benefits of trees, and the ecosystem service value to Virginia Beach. Virginia Beach aims to achieve 45% tree canopy coverage by planting, nurturing, and protecting the urban forest. A challenge is ensuring the annual tree loss is not greater than the annual tree gain. Using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), Virginia Beach measures the tree canopy and can track it over time. Education is a key component. Ms. Costanza reviewed the tree inventory and dashboard. Chair Bernick thanked her for her very informative presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached.
- b. Dominion Energy Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) Project Tree Mitigation – Ms. Green and Ms. Costanza advised the City received approximately \$1.1M to mitigate the trees impacted by the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project. A kick-off meeting included multiple departments and next steps include developing the criteria needed to determine locations. Ms. Costanza asked members to send her any suggested locations. Trees will be planted using a contract and will include a one-year warranty period. Tree clearing by Dominion will initiate in January and must be completed by April 15, 2024.
- c. ITA Open Space Strategies – Chair Bernick thanked the subgroup for their efforts preparing the strategies and he anticipates finalizing at the February meeting.
- d. Acquisition Updates
 - i. Washington Square – no update
 - ii. Holland Road Carbon Credit Property – Public Works will be discussing with the City Manager
- e. Open Space Acquisition Process & Criteria
Chair Bernick and Ms. Green have prepared a draft sequence of steps for acquiring property and are working with the City Attorney's office to finalize. They anticipate providing a draft at the February meeting.
- f. Vacancy Update – Full membership

5. REPORTS

- a. Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation (VBPRF) – Barbara Duke
A new liaison will be appointed in the next few months.
- b. Green Ribbon Committee – Vincent Bowhers
Met on December 7, 2023
 1. Councilmember Schulman discussed the Stormwater Implementation Advisory Group and Tree Preservation Policy.
 - a. Work includes addressing concerns with impacts of development on stormwater and tree canopy, which overlaps with OSAC criteria.
 - b. Recognize the need for alignment in long term planning/master plan.
 2. Councilmember Henley discussed the Offshore Wind project, specifically discussing the power line right of way and tree mitigation funding.
 3. Cali Mitchum, Environmental Studies representative, discussed protecting historic properties from sea level rise.
 4. Vince Bowhers briefed the committee on the ITA Open Space Strategies
- c. LRNOW – Vincent Bowhers/Clay Bernick
 - 79 cleanups, 12,555 lbs, 2,031 volunteer hours in 2023
 - January Cleanup at MOCA removed over 1,500 lbs



- Winter Wildlife Festival bird walks, notable tree tours, exhibit hall
- Next cleanup February 10th at Francis Land House
- d. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Maury Hill/ATAC Chair Camp
 - City of Chesapeake project underway related to greenways, blueways, trails, open space, tree canopy, and related matters, [Chesapeake Trails and Connectivity Plan | Chesapeake, VA \(cityofchesapeake.net\)](http://Chesapeake Trails and Connectivity Plan | Chesapeake, VA (cityofchesapeake.net)). Subsidiary links to the Greenprint Inventory and their Trails & Connectivity Plan, both in draft form are available as well. Public Open House on Wednesday January 31st, from 5:30-7:30pm at Grassfield High School.
 - Va School Crossing Guard Day February 7, 2024
 - The School Board plans to adopt a resolution on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024, recognizing Va School Crossing Guard Day on February 7th. VBPD and the Sheriff's Office support and will highlight safety in school zones.
 - VBCPS will inform all students' families of the statewide awards program to recognize outstanding school crossing guards.
 - Virginia Legislative
 - In session and monitoring the 17 bills related to trails, parks, and open space
 - Northern Tier Site Tours (December 11th & 19th)
 - Tour covered 32 miles of sites along the City's northern tier – the greater Shore Drive and Northampton Blvd corridors, from Diamond Springs Road to Atlantic Avenue. Based on an overwhelming response, a second tour was held on December 19th, which included school representatives. School representatives have since requested another tour for 10 department heads to develop a curriculum that would encompass many learning points, including traffic safety, for the 8th through 12th grades.
- e. Friends of Live Oaks – Chair Bernick
 - Partnering with VBCPS Environmental Studies Program
 - Evaluating ordinances and policies currently in place with the City of Virginia Beach
 - Gap – current reality versus state legislation
 - Researching other cities' programs
- f. Healthy Communities Provision – 5th legal basis as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan and includes open space and tree canopy enabling localities to enact

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- William Fleming recently attended a regional summit regarding urban agriculture and can share state conservationist contact information as needed.
- Welcomed Logan Staunton, an Environmental Studies Program participant.

7. ADJOURN AND UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- a. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting February 26th.

There being no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by William Fleming and seconded by Maury Hill to adjourn the meeting at 5:03pm.

H.C. Bernick, III

Clay Bernick, Chair

Trina M. Harrell

Trina Harrell, Recorder



Distribution:

Mayor and City Council
Patrick Duhaney, City Manager
Parks and Recreation Commission
Open Space Advisory Committee
Kenneth Chandler, Deputy City Manager
Lucia Whitlow, City Attorney's Office
Kaitlyn James, Budget and Management Services
Kathy Warren, Planning Director
Emily Archer, Planning/SGA Office
David Trimmer, Agriculture Director
L.J. Hansen, Public Works Director
Kristal Johnson, Public Works/Real Estate
Michael Kirschman, Parks and Recreation Director
Frank Fentress, Parks and Recreation, Landscape Services
Parks and Recreation staff present